Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue #10 **Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC** **7 July 2011**

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

News from Above the Lakes

Trish DeHond, county agent covering Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties, and Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Clarendon, Williamsburg, and Florence Counties, both discovered problems with lesser cornstalk borer in soybeans this week in Florence County. The pictures they took below show the silken tube created by the caterpillar, plant damage/split stems, a larva tunneling in a soybean stalk, and a larva removed from a plant (inset photo by Dr. Reay-Jones). Trish reported that the infestation was found in "sandy soil, droughty conditions, and conventional tillage. Outer surface of soybean stems appeared split just above and below the soil surface. Found only one larva and one silken tube in about 10 - 12 plants we dug up. Grower has replanted one field where damage was severe." Rescue treatment is erratic for LCB. See our recommendations for additional information: http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF

Also, Dr. (JC) Chong found a patch of kudzu with thousands of kudzu bugs near where he lives in Florence County while running this week. We have already started to see these bugs moving to soybeans. I would expect that folks will start to see large numbers in some soybean fields in the coming weeks.

News from Below the Lakes

Marion Barnes, county agent covering Colleton County, reported that he looked at several fields in Colleton and Bamberg Counties and had reports from Hampton and Allendale producers of "skippy" stands of soybeans that are being replanted. One producer reported a better stand around the edge of the field **in the shade** versus out in the middle in the sun. Marion and many producers feel that the 95 plus to 100 degree days of heat had a detrimental effect on soybean germination and emergence. Moisture, for the most part, was adequate, and seed were not "dusted in". The extreme heat is the prime suspect, with drought as an accomplice...cannot argue with them.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

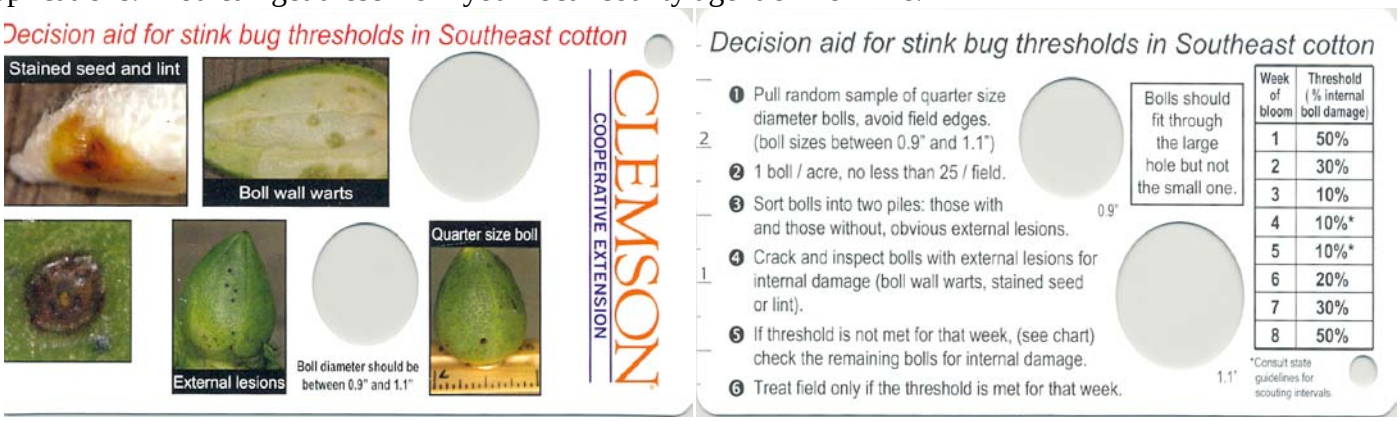
No news to report this week. Email your observations/comments to me by Wednesday of each week.

Cotton Situation

As of 4 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 53% of the crop as squaring, compared with 52% last year at this time and 46% for the 5-yr average. About 16% of the crop has set bolls, compared with 6% last year at this time and 3% for the 5-yr average. Temperatures have remained high, and some scattered showers have brought relief to some areas, but it has not been enough. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 40% very short, 46% short, 14% adequate, and 0% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 5% very poor, 12% poor, 46% fair, 36% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

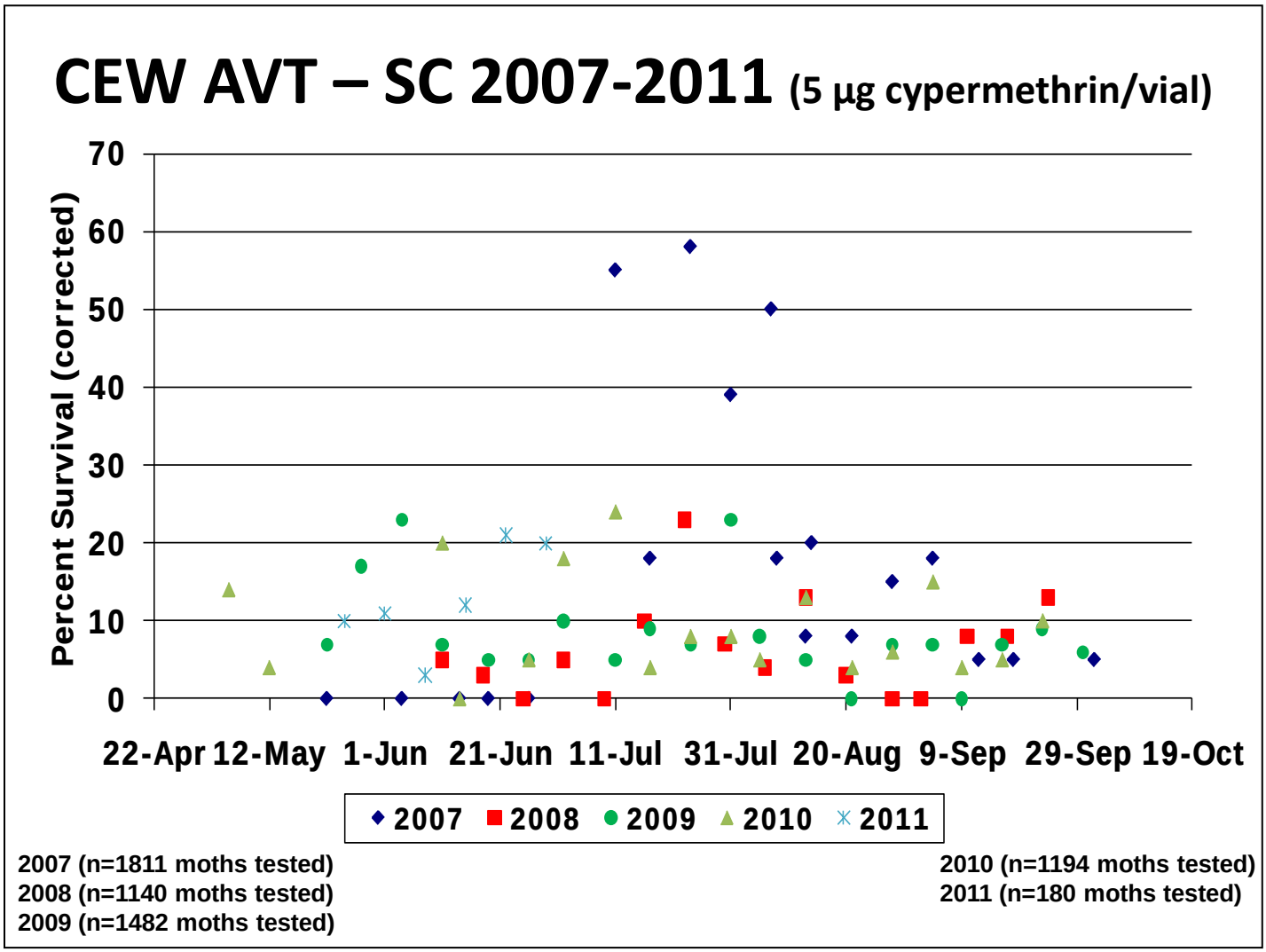
Stink Bugs in Cotton

It is about that time for much of our cotton acres. As we get into the 3rd-5th week of bloom, we need to aggressively check and protect cotton from stink bugs. I have free field cards with lanyards available (pictured) that detail how to check for stink bug injury and when to "pull the trigger" for insecticide applications. You can get these from your local county agent or from me.



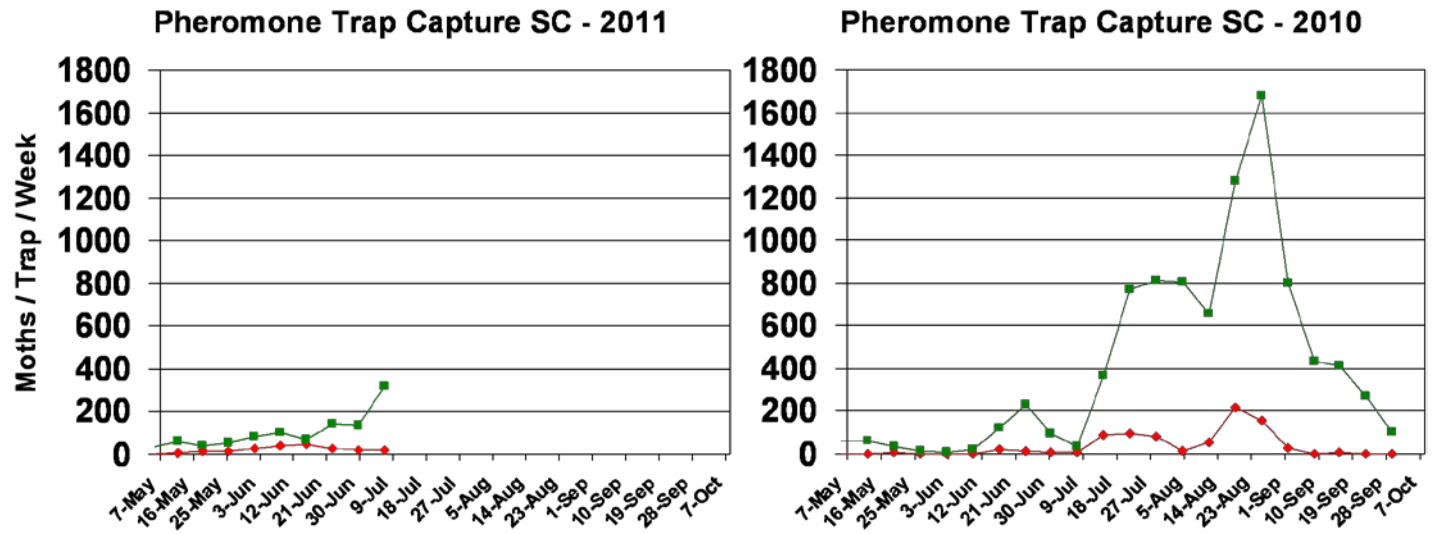
Pyrethroid Resistance Monitoring for Bollworm/Corn Earworm

As part of a collaborative effort with USDA and colleagues across the Southeast and Mid-South, I monitor potential development of pyrethroid resistance in bollworm/corn earworm (CEW) every year. The results below show that we have not had survival above 30%, except for in 2007 during the end of July. Concern usually abounds when survival in these tests exceeds 40%. In 2007, we did see some pockets of CEW that made it through pyrethroid applications, but we see that just about every year in isolated locations. So far this season, we have not picked up anything unusual in these tests in SC, but other states are reporting elevated survival.



Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar so far but are about 1 week earlier with the increase in BW numbers – how high with they go this year? Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:
http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF

Soybean Situation

As of 4 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 95% of soybeans as planted, behind where we were last year at 99% and the 5-yr average of 98%. About 83% of soybeans have emerged, behind where we were last year at 92% and the 5-yr average of 90%. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 6% very poor, 31% poor, 43% fair, 20% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:
http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 45 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties***. Because we have almost confirmed the presence of this species on a host plant in every county in SC, I am now asking that all wanting to provide information about occurrence of this species inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. ***Please email me with reports from soybeans in all counties not reporting them in the crop previously – see map below.***

Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids are showing up in soybeans right now. Be on the lookout for newly developed adults moving from kudzu/wisteria to soybeans. My graduate student and I have been spraying a treatment threshold trial and an insecticide efficacy test in MGIV soybeans. The pyrethroids in the small efficacy trial have been providing good control of the kudzu bug, but we are seeing very quick re-infestation behind the sprays. Although our plots are rather large for small-plot work (about 40' x 40'), some of the re-infestation could be due to the insects' ability to fly from untreated adjacent areas and quickly re-colonize previously treated small areas. Undoubtedly, whole field applications will be more effective. We will be continuing with these trials and initiate more field tests in searc of answers for this new pest.

The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We have just 1 county remaining (Beaufort) from which the insect has not been reported as established on a host (I am sure that it is there…we just have yet to get down there and check!). We are now documenting the presence of the species on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more will be observed on the crop this season. A map of the infested portions of the southeastern USA is also shown.

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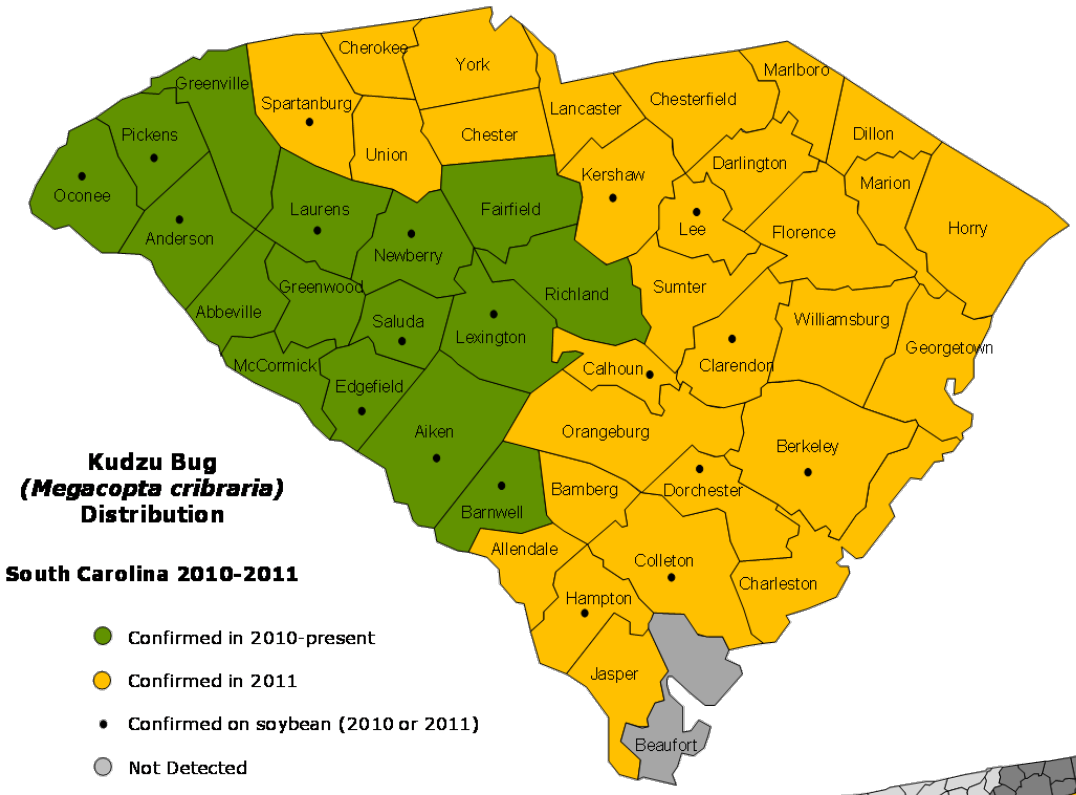
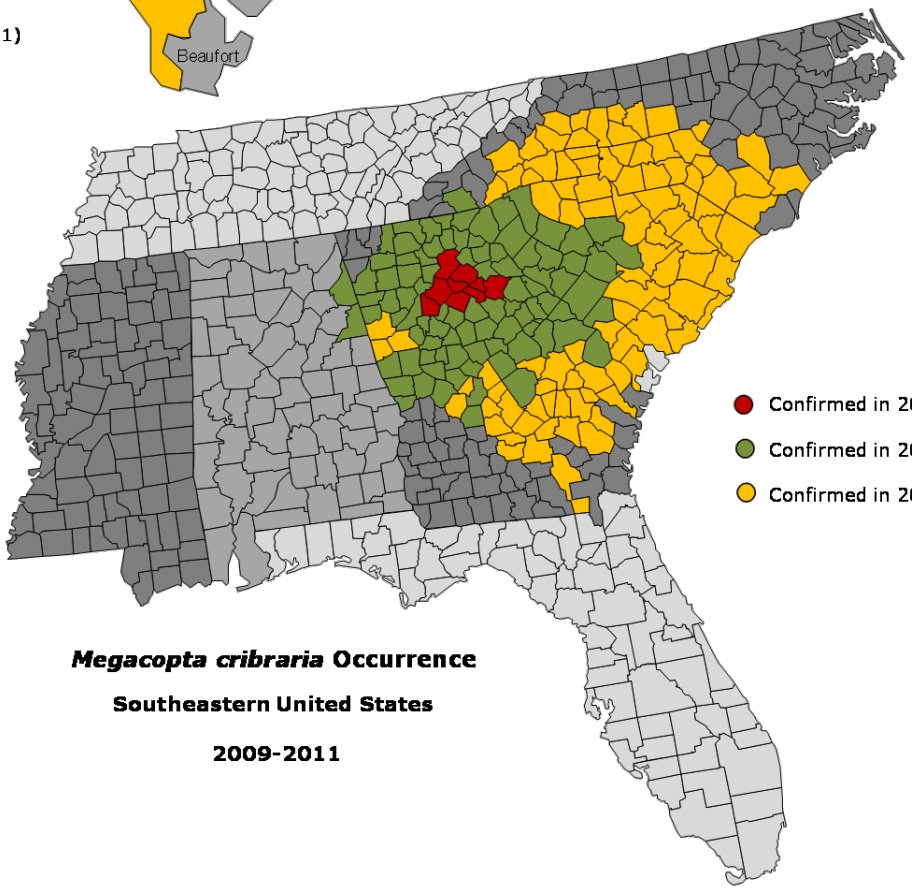


Kudzu Bug
(Megacopta cribraria)
Distribution

South Carolina 2010-2011

- Confirmed in 2010-present
- Confirmed in 2011
- Confirmed on soybean (2010 or 2011)
- Not Detected



***Megacopta cribraria* Occurrence**

Southeastern United States

2009-2011

Southeast map courtesy of
Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA).

Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:
http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html

For past newsletters:
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist

Visit our website at:
http://www.clemson.edu